

REPORT OF THE  
IOWA COMMISSION ON INTERSTATE COOPERATION  
TO THE  
SIXTY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## REPORT OF THE IOWA INTERSTATE COOPERATION COMMISSION

### Purpose

Section 28B.2, 1975 Code of Iowa, states that the functions of the Iowa Interstate Cooperation Commission are:

- "1. To carry forward the participation of this state as a member of the Council of State Governments.
2. To encourage and assist the legislative, executive, administrative and judicial officials and employees of this state to develop and maintain friendly contact by correspondence, by conference, and otherwise, with officials and employees of other states, of the federal government, and of local units of government.
3. To encourage cooperation between this state and other units of government in the adoption of compacts and uniform laws and in working relationships with officials of other states."

### Membership

Section 28B.1, 1975 Code of Iowa, establishes the Commission's membership at thirteen:

- "1. Five members of the senate to be appointed by the president thereof;
2. Five members of the house of representatives to be appointed by the speaker of the house;
3. Three administrative officers to be appointed by the governor.

The governor, the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives shall be ex officio honorary non-voting members of the commission.

The director of the legislative service bureau shall serve as secretary of the commission."

Members of the Iowa Interstate Cooperation Commission during the 1973-1975 biennium were:

Governor Robert D. Ray, ex officio  
Lieutenant Governor Arthur A. Neu, ex officio  
Speaker Andrew Varley, ex officio  
Senator W. R. Rabedeaux, Chairman  
Representative Dennis Freeman, Vice Chairman  
Senator James W. Griffin, Sr.  
Senator John S. Murray

Senator William D. Palmer  
Senator James F. Schaben  
Representative James T. Caffrey  
Representative Richard F. Drake  
Representative Philip B. Hill  
Representative Robert M. Creamer  
Treasurer of State Maurice Baringer  
Mr. Marvin R. Selden, Jr., State Comptroller  
Mr. Clayton L. Ringgenberg

#### Committees

Section 28B.3, 1975 Code of Iowa, provides for the utilization of committees:

"The commission shall establish such committees as it deems advisable, in order that they may confer and formulate proposals concerning respective means to secure intergovernmental harmony, and may perform such other functions for the commission in obedience to its decision."

The following is a list of public officials appointed by the Commission to serve on the Midwestern Conference of the Council of State Governments committees:

#### Human Resources Committee

Representative Joan Lipsky, Chairperson \*  
Senator William D. Palmer  
Mr. Clayton Ringgenberg, alternate

#### Education and Public Employees Committee

Senator John S. Murray  
Mr. Marvin R. Selden, Jr.

#### Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

Senator James F. Schaben  
Representative Dennis L. Freeman

#### Justice and Law Enforcement Committee

Representative Robert M. Creamer  
Representative Philip B. Hill

#### Transportation and Commerce Committee

Senator W. R. Rabedaux  
Representative Richard F. Drake

Government Operations and Urban Affairs Committee

Senator James W. Griffin, Sr.  
Representative James T. Caffrey  
Mr. Maurice E. Baringer, alternate

Suggested State Legislation Committee

Senator James W. Griffin, Sr.  
Representative Dennis L. Freeman

Executive Committee

Representative Robert M. Kreamer, Vice Chairman  
Senator W. R. Rabedaux

\*(Representative Joan Lipsky, even though not a member of the Iowa Interstate Cooperation Commission, was appointed to the Human Resources Committee and she was subsequently elected chairman of this committee.)

The above listed persons served on the committees with representatives of the other eleven states of the Midwestern Conference of the Council of State Governments.

Commission

The Iowa Interstate Cooperation Commission held eight meetings during the 1973-1975 biennium. The following summary provides an insight into the activities of the Commission during the past two fiscal years.

At its first meeting held on July 18, 1973, the Commission elected Senator W. R. Rabedaux as chairman, Representative Dennis Freeman as vice chairman and nominated Representative Robert Kreamer as vice chairman of the 1974 Midwestern Conference of the Council of State Governments. Iowa is scheduled to be the host of the 1975 Midwestern Conference and, therefore, the Vice Chairman of the Midwestern Conference is elected by the preceding Midwestern Conference to prepare for eventual election as chairman during the year in which the state hosts the Conference. The Commission also discussed possible sites for the 1975 Conference including the areas of Lake Okoboji, Clear Lake, Des Moines, Davenport, and Sioux City. Chairman Rabedaux asked members of the Commission to investigate possible sites throughout the state for the 1975 Conference.

At its second meeting on September 10, 1973 at the 1973 Midwestern Conference in Rapid City, the Commission received reports from the Iowa delegates of the various standing committees of the Conference and adopted a resolution to be presented to the Conference citing Senator Vernon H. Kyhl for his advocacy and past efforts on behalf of the Midwestern Conference. Representative Freeman reported that the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources received a

presentation from Mr. Harvey M. Sheldon of the United States Environmental Protection Agency relating to the relationship of the Environmental Protection Agency and agriculture. He stated that Mr. Sheldon discussed the provisions of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 and its effect on the agricultural sector of the economy. Representative Freeman stated that there was considerable debate among the Committee members concerning federal encroachment on states in the areas of pollution control, pesticide control and land use regulation. Senator Griffin stated that the Committee on Governmental Operations and Urban Affairs discussed problems occurring within the Midwestern States relating to regional forms of government and general revenue sharing guidelines. He stated that Committee members also discussed the possible conflicts between the concepts of revenue sharing and the proposals of the Better Communities Act. Representative Lipsky reported that the Committee on Human Resources received a presentation from Dr. Mitchell Wendell relating to Interstate Compacts. Following the presentation, the Committee discussed the many subject areas -- taxation, juvenile problems, adoption, and teacher certification -- where interstate compacts are a valuable tool of interstate cooperation. Representative Drake reported that the Committee on Transportation and Commerce discussed the ramifications of mass transit and railroad abandonment in the Midwestern States. He stated that the Committee members expressed concern that Federal Highway Trust Funds would be used for mass transit programs which would not meet the needs of rural areas which are in need of financial support to meet minimum transportation needs. Concerning railroad abandonment, he stated that the Committee generally agreed that state commerce commission should be authorized to approve railroad abandonments along with the Interstate Commerce Commission, railroads should be allowed to raise rates, and a subsidy should be considered to maintain certain rail services. The Commission further discussed plans for the 1975 Midwestern Conference and concluded that the dates of August 3-6, 1975 should be reserved for the Conference. The Commission also nominated Senator W. R. Rabedeaux as Iowa's appointee to the National Governing Board of the Council of State Governments.

At its third meeting held on May 1, 1974, the Commission tentatively selected the New Inn at Lake Okoboji as the site for the 1975 Conference. Chairman Rabedeaux appointed a Subcommittee on Site Selection to review potential transportation and logistics problems relating to the Lake Okoboji site and a Subcommittee on Promotion to arrange for advertising and promotion of the 1975 Conference at the 1974 Conference in Indianapolis.

At its fourth meeting held on July 9, 1974 at the Hilton Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana during the 1974 Conference, the Commission received the report of the Subcommittee on Site Selection and finally approved the New Inn at Lake Okoboji as the Conference Headquarters for the 1975 Conference. The Commission also received a report of the Subcommittee on Promotion concerning the development of the promotion and advertising program for the 1975 Conference. Chairman Rabedeaux also appointed a Subcommittee on Social Activities to prepare and recommend a social calendar for the 1975 Conference.

The Tourism Division of the Iowa Development Commission set up a tourism booth at the 1974 Conference, assisted the Subcommittee in obtaining ear corn lapel stickers as a promotion device and provided slides and tourism material for the delegates at the 1974 Conference. The Commission received reports from its members who attended the standing committee meetings at the 1974 Conference. The Justice and Law Enforcement Committee discussed and recommended the adoption of the following resolutions by the 1974 Midwestern Conference:

1. That states adopt legislation allowing the courts to expunge criminal justice records if it is in the best interest of the ex-offender and the general public, providing for educational and work release programs and provides for community-based facilities for the development of community corrections programs, and creating a correctional ombudsman program be placed in an agency which is independent of the state's correctional administration.

2. That states provide salary and employment incentives to encourage the recruitment and employment of highly qualified correctional officers capable of contributing to rehabilitation programs in correctional facilities.

3. That states adopt legislation to become members of the Interstate Correction Compact, eliminating legal and administrative restrictions involving the licensing or acceptability of ex-offenders for most occupations, enabling correctional administrators to grant limited furloughs to qualified inmates, and providing inmates rights, the confidentiality of criminal justice files, and the restitution of crime victims.

The Committee on Transportation and Commerce discussed and recommended that the 1974 Midwestern Conference adopt a resolution memorializing the United States Congress to refrain from enacting "no-fault" insurance legislation and, thus, reserving such power to the individual states. The Committee also recommended that the Interstate Commerce Commission refrain from authorizing the abandonment of railroad lines for a period of two years or until the individual states can complete a detailed study of the adverse effects of such abandonments. The Committee on Agriculture discussed and recommended that the United States Congress investigate the feasibility of implementing a variable import quota system for agricultural products to provide for greater stability of agricultural supplies and prices and the feasibility of increasing agricultural product exports during periods of high production. The Committee on Human Resources discussed the needs of childhood health care and recommended that the adoption of any national health insurance must insure the inclusion of adequate coverage for prenatal, postnatal and neonatal health care. The Task Force on Workmen's Compensation discussed the problems and status of workmen's compensation laws among the Midwestern States and recommended compliance with the standards recommended by the National Commission on Workmen's Compensation Laws.

At the 1974 Conference held at Indianapolis Representative Robert Kremer of Iowa was elected Chairman of the Midwestern Conference of the Council of State Governments. Representative Kremer will preside over the 1975 Midwestern Conference.

At its fifth meeting on September 18, 1974, the Commission received a report from the Subcommittee on Social Activities outlining plans for the social activities of the Conference. The Commission also authorized Chairman Rabedeaux to appoint a committee to write a letter requesting participation by any interested person or group in sponsoring or being an honorary host to the 1975 Midwestern Conference. Senator Palmer, Treasurer of State Baringer, and Chairman Rabedeaux were appointed to draft the letter. The Commission also approved the proposed social calendar for the 1975 Conference subject to specific approval of expenditures for specific social activities.

At its sixth, seventh, and eighth meetings held on November 8, 1974, March 10, 1975, and April 3, 1975, the Commission continued to discuss plans for the 1975 Conference and suggested program topics for the business meetings to be presented by Representative Robert Kremer to the Executive Committee of the Midwestern Conference of the Council of State Governments for its consideration. Topics suggested by Iowa and representatives of the other eleven Midwestern states include:

Medical Malpractice	Meat Packer Bonding
Railroad Abandonment	The Economy
New Federal Fiscal Year	Land Use
Energy (Coal Slurry	No-Fault Insurance
Transportation,	Appropriations Process
Associated Water	Public Employee Retirement
Problems)	Systems/Pensions

Copies of the minutes of the Iowa Interstate Cooperation Commission and its subcommittee meetings are available at the Legislative Service Bureau upon request.

#### Summary

The increasing complexities of interstate relations and relations between state governments and the federal government require that states exchange ideas and information as a minimum effort toward solving interstate problems and, as a maximum effort, cooperate and coordinate state compacts and consolidate efforts in dealing with the federal government. Increasing overlap in relation to transportation, taxation, pollution control, federal grant-in-aid, and various forms of reciprocity emphasize the states' difficulties. The Iowa Interstate Cooperation Commission, through its direct contacts with Iowa's congressional delegation and participation in the Midwestern Council of State Governments, appears to be meeting the objectives of Chapter 28B relating to federal-state and interstate cooperation.